

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT STREET, SUITE 2000  
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VOICE AND TDD (415) 804-8200



May 12, 1999

William Normark  
Coastal and Marine Geology Team, MS 999  
United States Geological Survey  
345 Middlefield Rd.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

RE: **CD-032-99 USGS**, Consistency Determination, United States Geological Survey (USGS), seismic survey to map earthquake faults and aquifers, Southern California offshore waters

Dear Mr. Normark:

On May 11, 1999, by a vote of two in favor, five opposed, with two abstentions, the California Coastal Commission objected to the above-referenced consistency determination. During the public hearing the project was modified to avoid operating within the 3 mile limit of State waters, and to expand the marine mammal protection radius for odontocetes to be the same as mysticetes (i.e., 100 meter protection area for both types of whales, to assure that they would be exposed to no greater than 180 dB sound levels). Nevertheless, even with these modifications the Commission found the project was not consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP).

The Commission further determined that alternative measures exist that would enable the project to be conducted in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the CCMP. The alternative measure identified by the Commission would entail avoiding conducting the survey during nighttime hours (when visibility is highly reduced). The Commission further informed USGS that if USGS would modify the activity in this manner, it could be resubmitted as a negative determination, and the Commission delegated to the Executive Director the authority to concur with such a modified project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Delaplaine".

Mark Delaplaine  
Federal Consistency Supervisor

cc: Long Beach and San Diego Area Offices  
Michael Fisher, USGS  
NOAA Assistant Administrator  
OCRM  
Department of Water Resources  
Governor's Washington D.C. Office  
NMFS (Ken Hollingshead)  
James Raives